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Professor Aug. Lameere, the eminent Belgian coleopterist, who has for some time been engaged in the praiseworthy work of revising the Prionides of the world, has issued a considerable portion of his monograph.\* Abandoning older customs he has examined all available material in the European museums, and is thus able to furnish much synonymic matter. Each species is fully described, sometimes with ethological notes, and there are tables to the species of each genus. After each genus he has a chapter on the relationships and geographic distribution of the species.

Mr. J. E. Guthrie has prepared an account of the Collembola of Minnesota.† Fifty-eight species are listed. There are synoptic tables to the genera and species. Under each species is placed the original description, together with notes by the author; full synonymy is given, and there is a bibliography of works consulted. The plates illustrate the essential details of structure. It will be a very useful book, especially for one beginning the study of this neglected order of tiny insects.

The fourth volume of Tutt's exhaustive work‡ on the British Lepidoptera finishes the Sphingidæ. The thoroughness with which the multitude of details has been arranged in this work will never cease to excite wonder. Two species occupy together over 130 pages. With this volume there is published a synopsis of the contents and general index to Volumes I. to IV. In the preface Mr. Tutt gives an excellent criticism of the rules of nomenclature used by Rothschild and Jordan in their recent revision of the Sphingidæ. It may be noted that he uses *Sesia* in place of *Macroglossum*.

The *Annales du Musée du Congo*, which for some time has been published by the Belgian authorities, has commenced to treat of the

insect fauna of the Congo region. Two portions have been issued; one on the group Prionides of the longicorn beetles, is by Professor A. Lameere; the other on the family Scutelleridæ of the Heteroptera is by Dr. H. Schouteden. The work appears in fascicles of folio size, and, if continued, will soon be a rival of the *Biologia Centrali Americana*. The plates appear to be fully equal to the best in that work.

E. Lynch Arribalzaga has described a new species of bird-grasshopper,\* *Schistocerca peruviana*, which does considerable damage to cultivated crops in parts of Peru. It is closely related to several of the other destructive species, such as *S. peregrina* and *S. paranensis*, and more intimately to the American bird-grasshopper of our eastern states, *S. americana*. Nothing has been done in the way of remedial treatment.

In the same journal,† J. Brethes has given a revision of the South American Vespidæ, and of the Eumenidæ of the La Plata basin. Synoptic tables are given, and there are descriptions of many new species. E. L. Homberg in the same journal (pp. 377-512) describes a great number of new bees and fossorial hymenoptera, principally from Argentine. NATHAN BANKS.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL ELECTRICAL CONGRESS.

WE are informed that under the auspices of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, an International Electrical Congress will be held in St. Louis during the week of September 12-17. The congress will be divided into two parts, namely:

(1) A Chamber of Government Delegates appointed by the various governments of the world, invitations to which were issued at the beginning of the year from the United States government. The transactions of the Chamber of Delegates will relate to matters affecting international questions of electrical units, standards, and the like.

\* 'Revision des Prionides, Macrotomines,' *Mém. Soc. Ent. Belg.*, XI., pp. 216, 1904.

† 'The Collembola of Minnesota,' *Geol. and Nat. Hist. Surv. of Minn.*, Zool. Series, IV., Minneapolis, 1903, pp. 103, 16 plates.

‡ 'A Natural History of the British Lepidoptera,' Vol. IV., London, April, 1904, pp. 535, 3 pls., by J. W. Tutt.

\* 'La Langosta Voladora del Peru,' *Anales Mus. Nac. Buenos Aires* (3), Vol. II., pp. 1-5, 1904.

† *Ibid.*, pp. 15-39 and 231-320.

(2) The Congress at large, divided into eight sections, as follows:

General Theory: Section A, Mathematical, Experimental.

Applications: Section B, General Applications, Section C, Electrochemistry; Section D, Electric Power Transmission; Section E, Electric Light and Distribution; Section F, Electric Transportation; Section G, Electric Communication, Section H, Electrotherapeutics.

The president of the committee of organization is Professor Elihu Thomson, of Lynn, Mass. The vice-presidents are B. J. Arnold, Professor H. S. Carhart, Professor W. E. Goldsborough, C. F. Scott and Dr. S. W. Stratton.

Three hundred and forty-three official invitations were issued some months ago to well-known workers in electricity, inviting papers for the congress. 168 of these invitations were issued to persons residing in countries outside of North America. As a result of these invitations, 105 American and 59 foreign specially prepared papers are promised to the congress. Up to June 30, 1,787 adhesions to the congress had been received, of which about 1,300 have paid their subscriptions of \$5.00 each. Of these, 291 are from countries outside of North America. The following societies will cooperate with the congress at St. Louis, by holding simultaneous conventions and joint sessions:

The American Institute of Electrical Engineers.  
The American Electrochemical Society.  
The American Physical Society.  
The American Electrotherapeutic Association.  
The Association of Municipal Electricians.

The following societies will cooperate with the congress by appointing delegates:

The National Electric Light Association.  
The Association of Edison Illuminating Companies.  
The Société Internationale des Electriciens.  
The Schweizerischer Electrotechnischer Verein.

It is expected that various other European societies will also cooperate. Fourteen thousand six hundred invitations have been issued to persons interested in electricity all over the world, inviting them to join the congress. It is expected that the 'Transactions' of the

congress will attain two or three large volumes. Persons interested in electricity and who desire to join the congress should apply to the general secretary, Dr. A. E. Kennelly, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Each member of the congress is entitled to receive one set of the 'Transactions.' It is intended to issue the 'Transactions' of the congress, when printed, to libraries and non-members for \$10.00 per set.

#### AMERICAN AND GERMAN UNIVERSITIES.

It is interesting to note that of the 37,692 students enrolled in the German universities for the term now drawing to a close, 3,093 were foreigners, of whom 986 were Russians. Female students to the number of 1,314 were enrolled for the term.

These figures do not include such students as are merely guests (hospitants), of whom there are always quite a number. These enjoy all the privileges of the regular students, but they can not be graduated. If these be added to the others, it is safe to say that fully 10 per cent. of those attending German universities are foreigners. Almost one thousand Russians, or nearly one third of the foreign element, were matriculated last winter. Next come the Austrians and Hungarians, numbering 601, or about 20 per cent. Switzerland furnished 322 regular students, and there were 324 Americans enjoying the same opportunities.

The number of foreign students, especially of those coming from Russia, has steadily grown, but a careful study of the attendance at the German universities seems to show that Americans have not been adding to this increase. Thus, if we look over the reports of the winter half-year of 1899-1900, we find that the total attendance at German universities during that period was 32,834 regular students, of whom 2,369, or about 7 per cent., were foreigners; and that 607 of these were Russians, 455 Austrians, 265 Swiss, and 317 Americans. Thus there were only seven more Americans enrolled last winter than there were four years ago.

During the nineteenth century German universities led the world in erudition and scien-